



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

1797. *Jan'y* 6. 2-5 P. M. (J. Vaughan, R. Patterson, C. W. Peale, T. Coxe [*sic*], W. Barton, J. Williams, Bickley, St. Mery, R. P. Smith, Prof. Jas. Davidson, Blakely [*sic*], J. Abercrombie, J. B. Smith, Wheeler, Page, of Virginia; Doctors Caldwell, Currie, Barton, Duffield, Woodhouse, Collin, W. Shippen, W. White, S. Magaw, and Hugh Williamson, of North Carolina.

Messrs. Tench Cox [*sic*], C. W. Peale and W. Barton, Judges of the Annual Election.

*President*—Thomas Jefferson.

*Vice-Presidents*—Caspar Wistar, Ben. Rush, Nich. Collin.

*Secretaries*—W. Barton, J. Bleakley, S. Magaw, Jon. Williams.

*Treasurer*—J. Vaughan.

*Curators*—C. W. Peale, Dr. B. S. Barton, Prof. Rob. Patterson.

*Councillors for 3 years*—Tench Cox [*sic*], Revd. Jas. Abercrombie Rich. P. Smith.

1797. *Jan'y* 20. (J. B. Smith, De Liancourt, Lelabour [*sic*], Dr. Is. Cathrall, and 16 others.)

Election of seven new members: Thos. C. James, Adam Seybert, M.D., and S. H. Smith, printer of the "New World" newspaper, of Philadelphia; John Newnan, M.D., of Salisbury [*sic*], North Carolina; Andrews Everardus Van Braam Houckgeest, of Bristol, Pennsylvania, formerly President Society of Harlem in Holland, member and author of *Travels of the Dutch Embassy in China*; Mozard, Consul French Republic at Boston; M. Volney, author of "the Ruins of Empire," &c., and Professor of the French National Institute.

Letter respecting the Prize subject of Education, introducing a Dissertation with the signature "Academicus," but without view to competition.

"Short account of the Situation, soil, productions, &c. of

the State of Tennessee [*sic*],” by John Newnan; reading of this MS. postponed.

Nominations ordered for the next meeting, out of which at the following meeting, the annual orator should be elected.

1797. Jan’y 27. (Dr. Priestley, Seybert, Beauvois, R. P. Smith and 8 others.)

Rules proposed by the officers, read and amended to read.

1. All By-Laws & Regulations in the Minutes not already obsolete shall be collected in the Book of the fundamental Articles of Charter, to be kept on the table during meetings.

2. A tabular “statement of the business [*sic*] directed by the Constitution or Laws, or otherwise, to be transacted at certain periods, shall be annexed to the Laws.”

3. Not more than one hour at any stated meeting shall be allotted for incidental business; Unfinished business to be adjourned to the next or an extra meeting, unless otherwise unanimously ordered.

4. A Record Book of all important verbal communications to be kept by the Secretaries.

5. Any member, at a stated meeting, may propose a question on any Philosophical Subject, to be entered in a Book. At a future meeting, after other business, members shall be called on to state their sentiments or observations on the question, & a summary of the most interesting recorded in the Book.

Secretaries “directed to carry into effect Rules 1 and 2, and provide a Book answerable to Rules 4 and 5.”

“Remarks on Education, illustrating the close Connection of Virtue & Wisdom,” taken up for examination and about a third part of it read. Note. “Call the above, Num. 1.” [Here a blank page is left.]

1797. Feb’y 3. (Smith (W), Collin, Caldwell, Beauvois, Bleakley, W. Barton, Seybert, Alex. Le Rebour [*sic*], Newnan, Mr. Smith, Currie, Peale, Patterson, Abercrombie, St. Mery, Dr. Cather (Dr. Catherall, written in a later and another hand), Dr. James, Davidson, Wistar, Magaw.)

The reading of Prize essay No. 1 finished, and referred to

Bleakley, Davidson and Magaw to report "an Analysis [*sic*] or compendious View of the Performance."

Agreed to keep the nomination open for annual orator until the time of beginning to elect; and that a majority of members present elect; if no election, then balloting for the three highest.

Dr. Priestley was elected orator. Date agreed on, the last Saturday of December. W. Barton, Patterson, Magaw, Committee to inform Dr. Priestley.

Committee on Mrs. Rittenhouse's Deed of ground asked time.

John Ormrod, stationer, having delivered the stipulated number of copies of the Eulogium, "The Society entertain a due sense of his punctuality & handsome execution of the business—" but "deem it right to return to M<sup>r</sup>. Ormrod 206 copies," in excess of their need for donations.—100 were entrusted to W. Barton, Vaughan and Lerebour [*sic*], a Committee of Distribution "abroad."

Communications signed "A,"—"Freedom,"—"Economy,"—were received.

1797. *Feb'y* 10. (W. Smith, Peale, Newnan, Vaughan, Wistar, Beauvois, Magaw and Judge Turner from the Northwestern Territory.)

The Oration Committee had "waited on Dr. Priestley last Monday forenoon, who received the information with great politeness, but declined accepting of the appointment."

Jefferson's letter from Monticello, Virginia, "expressing in the most polite terms the sense he entertained of the Honour done him at the late election, in choosing him President—with sundry other interesting particulars."

Essay on Education, No. 2, was read as far as "7 sections complete, in 92 pages."

"A variety of very curious & interesting articles from different parts of the Western Country—particularly from Missouri, Mississippi [*sic*] and Tennessee [*sic*], tending to

throw some illustration on the Indian Antiquities of N. A. were presented by Judge Turner" who undertakes to label them all soon. "Honorable mention was made of the above."

"Note. see pag. 148." [On pp. 147, 148, 157, in minutes of February 24, is the list of twenty-five articles.]

"The *Stated* business of the evening being closed, *incidental* conversation for some time ensued on Philosophical matters."

1797. *Feb'y* 17. (Page, of Virginia; Judge Turner, Peale, Dr. Barton, Nancarrow, Beauvois, Rich. Smith, Legeau [*sic*], J. B. Smith, James, Seybert, Collin, Wistar, W. Barton, Patterson, S. Smith, Magaw.)

Mr. Hobrow's paper on the best construction of street lamps, dated Middleton Point, Monmouth county, New Jersey, October 1, 1796, was read.

Dr. Barton was chosen annual orator.

"Calculations relative to grist & saw mills . . . . quantity of water . . . . given head . . . . in order to ascertain the dimensions of a new invented steam-engine intended to give motion to water-wheels . . . . where there is no fall, & but a very small stream or spring," by Dr. Nancarrow, received and reading postponed, "but honorable mention made of the author's favour done to the Society."

"Remarks, instructions and examples relating to the lat. & long., variation &c.," a treatise by Thos. Truxtone \* [*sic*]. Thanks ordered.

Dr. Barton accepts.

"Dutrait,† Consul," acknowledges his diploma by letter dated "Norfolk, Pluviose 6<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> year of the French Republic (Jan'y 26, 1797)."

Newnan's communication (January 20), read.

"An electrical machine to produce flame by the sudden contact of the electrical fluid with inflammable air or gas,"

\* Of Revolutionary fame.

† This name occurs elsewhere in several places as *Duhail*.

some time ago presented by Mr. Legaux to Mr. Wm. Rawle, is now presented, with Mr. Legaux's consent, to the Society, with a letter from Rawle to Wistar. "Respectful acknowledgments," ordered.

Jefferson's letter of acceptance read again, and ordered on the minutes. [Here follow the letter of the Secretaries to Jefferson, 1½ pages, and Jefferson's reply, 3 pages, large open handwriting.]

PHILADELPHIA, Jan'y 7, 1797.

SIR,

We have the pleasure of informing you, that at the annual Election of Officers of the American Philosophical Society for promoting useful knowledge, held at Philadelphia, on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst., you were chosen President of that respectable Institution.

The Society, Sir, cannot soon forget the loss they sustained by the death of the late worthy and ingenious D. Rittenhouse. But after expressing their grief on this melancholy occasion, they look forward, with this consoling reflection, that in the same Chair from which two American Philosophers have successively instructed them and the World, a Third is now seated, by whose Genius and knowledge, our National Name will preserve a distinguished place in the annals of Science.

Permit us, Sir, on this occasion to express our satisfaction in this pleasing Event, and in being the Organs by which the Society announce their Choice.

We are with sentiments of Esteem & Respect,

Sir

Your obed<sup>t</sup>. Servants.

S. M.

J. W.

W. B.

J. B.

*Secretaries of the Amer. Phil. Socy.*

#### MR. JEFFERSON'S ANSWER.

MONTICELLO, Jany 28<sup>th</sup>, 1797.

GENTLEMEN,

I have duly received your favour of the 7<sup>th</sup> instant, informing me, that the American Philosophical Society have been pleased to name me their President. The suffrage of a body which comprehends whatever the American World has of distinction in Philosophy & Science in general, is the most flattering incident of my life, and that to which I am the most sensible. My satisfaction would be complete, were it not for the conscious-

ness that it is far beyond my titles. I feel no qualification for this distinguished Post, but a sincere zeal for all the Objects of our institution, and an ardent desire to see knowledge so disseminated through the mass of mankind, that it may at length reach the extremes of Society, beggars, and kings.—I pray you, Gentlemen, to testify for me, to our body my sense of their favour, and my dispositions to supply by zeal what I may be deficient in the other qualifications proper for their service, and to be assured that your testimony cannot go beyond my feelings.

Permit me to avail myself of this opportunity of expressing the sincere Grief I feel for the loss of our beloved Rittenhouse. Genius, Science, modesty, purity of morals, simplicity of manners, marked him one of Nature's best samples of the Perfection she can cover under the human form. Surely, no Society, till ours, within the same compass of time, ever had to deplore the loss of two such members as Franklin & Rittenhouse. Franklin, our Patriarch, whom Philosophy & Philanthropy announced the first of men, and whose name will be like a star of the first magnitude in the firmament of heaven, when the memory of those who have surrounded & obscured him, will be lost in the Abyss of time.

With the most affectionate attachment to their memory; and with sentiments of the highest Respect to the Society, and to yourselves personally, I have the Honour to be,

Gentlemen

Your most obedient

and most humble Servant

Signed

TH. JEFFERSON.

1797. *Feb'y 24. Adjourned Meeting.* (11 present.)

Essay on Education (No. 2); reading finished.

Letter to the American Philosophical Society (No. 3), read in part.

List of Western curiosities, presented by Judge Turner, February 10. Indian boy's leggings; calumet; conjuror's mask; bone headed arrow; eight common Miami arrows; stone pestle; "stone hatchet formerly in use among the savages, the handle was always a withe—" "petrified buffalo dung [!] from the Rapids of Ohio, where such and various petrifications are found in abundance"—"petrified ordure, supposed to be human, from the same place"—"fine fossil coal, resembling the canal [*sic*] coal of Europe, from Cincinnati on Ohio" [!]"—"part of one of 30 or 40 trees all completely petrified found... 212 miles up the Tennessee [*sic*]

river, having tumbled into it with the bank on which they grew [!] The present specimen appears to have been black walnut" [!]*—*Indian bowl, complete, from the bed of the Tennessee—oviform\* stone from the Wabash; marine shells and perforated bones from a grave on the great Kenhawa [*sic*]*—*"for the remainder . . . see page 157."

This list of twenty-five articles being read, thanks were voted to Judge Turner "for this extremely acceptable proof of his Philosophical Industry, and his disposition to gratify them."

1797. *March 3.* (Jefferson; Williams, Liancour [*sic*], Rush, Patterson, St. Mery, Newnan, James, Rich. Smith, Magaw, Nancarrow, Dr. Barton, W. Barton, Peale, Lerebours, Dr. Smith, J. B. Smith, Abercrombie, Smiley, Beauvois, Legeaux, Wistar, S. Smith.)

Patterson and J. B. Smith, to audit Treasurer's accounts.  
S. Smith added to the Book Catalogue Committee.

Letter on Education for the prize, reading finished.

Essay on Education ("Freedom"), 2 folio leaves, read.

Education and Public Schools, 5 folio leaves, partly read.

Essay No. 2, referred to Patterson, Williams and Dr. Wistar.

Essay No. 3, referred to W. Smith, St. Mery and Abercrombie.

Adjourned to next Friday, "on the account of a communication to be made before M<sup>r</sup>. Jefferson leaves the city."

1797. *March 10. Adjourned Meeting.* (Jefferson, Priestley, Williams, Liancour, Beauvois, H. Williamson, of North Carolina; Caldwell, Dr. Barton, Collin, Nancarrow, Blakely [*sic*], Wistar, Patterson, Abercrombie, S. Smith, Vaughan, Turner, Leraboure [*sic*], Newnan, Rich. Smith, Deveze, J. B. Smith, Magaw.) "M<sup>r</sup>. Martin, late Governor of N. Carolina, was also present—having been introduced by a member."

\* The writing is not distinct; it looks like *aviform*.



[The last six words in a precautionary note in a different handwriting.]

Auditing Committee not ready.

Book presented. "Papers . . . . Amer. Antiq." By Winthrop Sargent and B. S. Barton. Thankfully received.

Deed from Mrs. Rittenhouse, ready for execution, laid on the table for inspection.

Nancarrow's "Calculations, &c.," referred to Patterson, Williamson, Peale.

"Pieces" on Education—"Academicus"—"Hiram"—"Hand"—"Freedom"—all five referred to Dr. James, R. Smith and Dr. Caldwell.

Jefferson's memoir [sic] "On the Discovery of certain Bones of a Quadraped of the" [a space of four lines here left blank].

"*Resolved*, That this Memoire be put into the hands of the Committee of Selection of Publication; & said Com. are instructed to employ a proper person to undertake & execute Drawings of the several bones exhibited [sic] by Mr. Jefferson with his Memoire, and in it referred to."

"*Resolved*, That it is the request of the Society to Mr. Peale, he may cause those Bones to be put in the best order, for the Society's use."

Continuation of List of Turner's curiosities: 15. American porcupine quills, dyed; 16. Same undyed; 17. Skin of an Indian; 18. Sea otter skin, part of a blanket brought from the Pacific coast by Mr. McKenzie, 1794; 19. Stuffed swan's foot; 20. The spear that slew "Col. Chew & his party on the Ohio, about 11 miles above Fort Massac; supposed to have been formed out of one of the bayonets used under Gen. St. Clair, in the action, Nov. 4, 1791;" 21. Indian arrows; 22. Kaskaskian sculpture of a beaver in wood, used as a tureen; 23. Indian garters from the Wabash; 24. Another pair from the Creeks; 25. Indian belt from the Mississippi.

1797. *March* 17. (8 present.)

Dobson's stationery bill, £9 .. 15 .. 7, ordered paid.

Deed from Mrs. Rittenhouse and daughters respecting the observatory and ground appertaining to it, ordered to be sealed.

Communications by Branston Vanleer, on, 1. Waters ; 2. Dioptrics ; 3. Salt of lime ; 4. Burns and scalds ; 5. Heat and colds ; 6. The dead in the grave.

"On improved fire places, with figures or plans in wood, of several Chimneys," a piece with signature "Oeconomy," and five figures received.

"On the improvement of chimneys," with figures, dated December 16, 1796. All the above were referred to Woodhouse and Williams.

"Observations on the Animal Cotton & the Insect Fly, &c.," translated from the French of M. Deslozieres, "fondeur de la Soc. des Arts et Sciences du Cap François," was read.

Piece on Education No. 2 reported on ; "laid on the table for the consideration & use of Members."

Dr. and Wm. Barton to enquire whether any acknowledgment was made of the receipt of a letter from W. Roxburgh, of Calcutta, with Asiatic plants, &c., or any compliance with his request.

Adjourned to last Friday in the month.

1797. *March* 31. "Philosophical Hall. Adjourned meeting." (Wistar, in the Chair ; Collin, Nancarrow, Peale, W. Barton, Turner, Hodge, J. B. Smith, Seybert, Dr. Barton, R. P. Smith, S. H. Smith.)

Pamphlets to be arranged and uniformly bound ; by the Catalogue Committee ; "AM: PHILOS: SOCIETY" to be lettered on the cover of each book ;—at a cost of not more than \$100 "for the present."

Peale's "Essay on building wood Bridges," presented by himself ; thanks ordered.

"Specimen of Indian Picture writing," exhibited, and a paper on it read by Dr. Barton.

Prize Committees ordered to report at next meeting.

Advertisement to be put in the public papers "calling on all Persons having Books belonging to the Society to return them without delay."

1797. April 7. "*Philosophical Hall. Stated Meeting.*" (Wistar, Coxe, R. Smith, Turner, Seybert, St. Mery, Currie, Vaughan, Beauvois, Le Rebours.)

"The Effects of D. Perkins' metallic Rods," a paper read by Dr. Currie.

"On Amphibious Serpents," a paper by Mr. Beauvois; translation ordered; referred to Committee of Selection and Publication.

B. F. J. Herman, of St. Petersburg, sent his "*Natur. des Kupfers*," and his "*Stat. Schil. von Russland*;" his letter to be translated by R. Smith.

"Drawing of a Pump invented by Mr. Humphreys, of Philadelphia." "The Inventor is requested to give a more ample Figure of the Pump with an accurate description of its Powers."

1797. April 21. *Philosophical Hall.* (Wistar, Dr. Barton, Vaughan, Collin, Turner, James, Seybert, Chev. de Frere, R. Smith, S. H. Smith, Patterson, St. Mery, J. B. Smith, Davidson, Williams.)

Grassi's "*Carte Botanique*," and "Notions elementaires de Botanique," presented; thanks ordered.

Catalogue Committee reported progress.

Election of new members; "the Ballot Drawers were ordered to remain unopened till the Society were about to adjourn, according to Rule."

Committee on Nancarrow's paper reported verbally. Paper referred to Committee of Selection and Publication.

Herman's letter, translated by W. Smith, ordered to be answered, with thanks "for his Donation and offers of service."

Letters (translated) from Don Luis de Urbina were read, one personally thanking the Society for his election, the other officially "expressing the usefullness of a mutual correspondence between two such Societys, and a determination to afford us every assistance in their power, inviting a

similar attention on our part, and informing this Society that they [the R. Soc. Valencia] had elected it [the A. P. S.] collectively as a Member of theirs."

A List of Donations and Donors, to be published "immediately after the 3<sup>d</sup> Friday of January, April, July and October, when an account of the Election of new members is to be published;" also a List of communications.

Catalogue Committee "directed to take measures for collecting all the Books & other Property belonging to the Society, and . . . take exclusive charge of the whole Library & property untill the Catalogue be compleated."

Judge Turner and Dr. Wistar a special Committee to answer Harman's [*sic*] letter.

Vols. I, II, III Transactions to be sent through M. Le Rebours to the National Institute, Paris.

"Dr. Davidson, having appeared since the new members were ballotted [*sic*] for, was permitted to vote for each, the Ballot Drawers remaining unopened."

Catalogue Committee "requested to apply to Mr. Aitkin & to report the state of the Volumes belonging to the Society in his hands."

Ballot Drawers opened and election of four new members declared: John Heckewelder, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; John Stewart, of Green Briar county, Virginia; Revd. Sam. Blair, D.D., of Philadelphia; Thomas Pinkney [*sic*], of South Carolina, late Minister Plenipotentiary U. S. A. to the Court of London.

1797. May 5. (Dr. Mitchel, Le Chev. C. R. Freire, Dr. Wistar, S. H. Smith, Magaw, Judge G. Turner, Woodhouse, R. Smith, Peale, W. Barton, Judge J. Williams, J. B. Smith, Patterson in the Chair.)

Secretaries to begin from January 1 in publishing Donations, &c.

Catalogue Committee presents written report, signed R. P. and J. Smith.

Catalogue Committee to consider the best mode of disposing of the copies of Dr. S. Stanhope Smith's oration, Dr. Rush's Eulogium, and Mr. T. Matlack's oration.

Woodhouse and Seybert to make a List of Minerals in the Cabinet.

Patterson and Peale, to arrange and describe the Philosophical apparatus.

Wistar's Committee reply to Prof. Herman, read and approved.

"Reports [of Committees] in the way of concise analytic review" "were introduced & read";—three on "Fire Places;"—On "Republican Schools" (Sig. "Hiram");—On "Education & Public Schools" (no Sig.) read March 10<sup>th</sup>;—A paper signed "Academicus;"—these reports to lie on the table.

Committee "to examine & consider of the existing Laws of the Society, with the view of having a revised, or new Code, if such may be constitutionally effected:" W. Barton, Jon. Williams.

Three Vols. Transactions R. S. Valencia, and Vol. of Constitutions of that Society, all in Spanish, presented, with letters from Don Lewis [*sic*] de Urbino, "the Director of that Society" specified in minutes of last meeting.

"*Resolved*, That the Diploma, sent from Valencia, expressing, that this Society *collectively* is chosen a Member of the R. S. of that place, shall be framed, glazed, and most attentively preserved, and that the same be carried into effect by Mr. Peale."

1797. May 19. (Jefferson in the Chair; Wistar, Turner, Caldwell, Dr. Barton, Patterson, Collin, Williams, Williamson, Peale, Seybert, R. P. Smith, Volney, Le Rebours.)

Books presented by R. Valtravers [*sic*]: Churchman's Magnetic Atlas; Cavallo's Treatise on Magnetism.

Committee on Revision of the Laws reported provisionally; proposed laws ordered to lie on the table for discussion.

"Two ancien Walls, lately discovered in N. Carolina," described by Revd. S. Spring and S. McCorkle, May 13,

read. Seybert, appointed to examine and report on specimens of the Cement and Stone of these walls.

“A plan for collecting information respecting the Antiquities of N. A.” to be reported by Turner, Wistar, Collin, R. P. Smith and Seybert.

Premium Committees which had not yet reported analyses of papers, notified to do so without further delay.

Book presented by Dr. Grassi : “Pomponii Melæ de orbis Situ, libri tres, &c. &c. printed in Paris, 1540.”

1797. *May 26. Special Meeting.* (Wistar in the Chair; Turner, Patterson, Vaughan, Peale, James, R. P. Smith, Le Rebours, Caldwell, Parke, Dr. Barton.)

*Mammoth bones.* Letter from J. Caffery of Nashville, read, stating “that many Bones of the Mamoth [*sic*] were to be found at Manscoes Lick near the mouth of Cumberland River, and offering assistance in Collecting & forwarding them to Philadelphia or New York.”—James, R. P. Smith, and Dr. Wistar, “to inform Mr. Caffery that the Society accepts his liberal offer, & to take such other measures as may be necessary to procure the Bones . . . provided they do not exceed \$100.”

Committee reported their “Plan for collecting information respecting the remains of ancient natural and artificial productions in N. A,” which was read by paragraphs and re-committed for a “Code of Rules for the Government of the permanent Committee contemplated in the aforesaid Report.”

1797. *June 16.* (Jefferson in the Chair; Wistar, Magaw, Dr. Barton, Seybert, Wheeler, Chev. Freire, Turner, Volney, Peale, Williams, Caldwell, Vaughan, St. Mery, Blakeley.)

Bone Committee reported “that the Secretary at War [*sic*] had undertaken to forward their letter” to Mr. Caffery.

The box presented by Earl Buchan to Mr. Rittenhouse

“was received from Mrs. Rittenhouse with the Earl’s Letter dated Jan. 12, 1795, containing a description of the Box, which is adorned with a pencil portrait of Napier on the inside & a Similar One of Copernicus on the outside; The Letter contains also some historical facts relative to Copernicus, & should, be kept in the Box, to show the object of the Donor.”

A letter in French from M. Noel, Mem. Soc. Emulation, Rouen, relative to the supposed passage of Herrings, was read in English. Dr. Barton and Williams to reply.

A letter from W. Couldery, London, January 27, relative to a new lamp, was read and a model produced. Patterson and Peale to consider its claim to the premium, and report “an account of the Effect of this lamp by fair experiment.”

Books presented by the Chev. Freire: *Ensaio Econ. Portugal: Trat. Educ. Fys. &c.* 2 Vols.; *Instit. Juris Civ. Lusitani*, 4 Vols.; *Hist. J. Civ. Lus.*; *Documentos arabicos*; *Vestigios da Lingua arabia em Portugal*; *Mem. de Litt. Portugueza*, 2 Vols.; *Mem. Economicas*, 3 Vols.; *Synopsis chronologica*, 2 Vols.; *Mem. e Obs. sobre . . . manufactura do Azeitte de Oliveira em Portugal*; *Programma de Acad. R. d. S.* 2 Vols. Thanks voted to Friere & “presented verbally from the Chair.—W. Barton ordered to furnish a Sett [*sic*] of the Trans. to him “to be presented by himself to the R. Acad. Lisbon.”

Committee of Selection and Publication, desired to report the present state of the Volume now in the press.

Peale produced the glazed Diploma from Valencia, “& makes a present to the Society of the expense he has been at.” Thanks voted and delivered from the Chair.

One hundred certificates of membership to be struck off without delay. “Mr. Peale undertook the execution of this order.”

St. Mery presented (from the author) Adet’s “*Doctrine of Phlogistique & the decomposition of Water*,” in French.

“Dr. Seybert produced a Specimen of the Stone taken

from the ancient Wall in N. C. with Specimens of the Cement in lump & in powder;" analysis hereafter.

Committee reported a draft of Rules for the proposed permanent Antiquarian Committee. Ordered to lie on the table, and that the choice of the Committee be referred to the next meeting.

A special meeting ordered for July 14, to consider communications "for the Premium offered for '*The best System of liberal education and literary Instruction*;' the performances to lie on the table for inspection; "the Hall to be open every day (Sundays excepted) until the said 14<sup>th</sup> of July, that the Members may have ample opportunity of estimating the comparative merits of the Essays on this important Subject."

1797. July 14. *Special Meeting.* (Collin; Vaughan, Dr. Barton, Legaux, Abercrombie, Magaw, Peale, Rush, Patterson, Williams, Turner, Woodhouse, R. S. Smith.)

"On the black colour of the Negroes," communicated from Dr. Rush, read and referred to a special Com.—Woodhouse, Seybert, Patterson.

Two Vols. F. "Le Dict. de l'Acad. Française," presented by R. Smith. Thanks voted.

"Plan of a new constructed Cylinder Pump, which he has now in operation, in watering the Frigate 'United States,'" communicated by Josh. Humphries [*sic*], and read April 7, was referred to Patterson and R. Smith to review, consider and report.

"Meteor. Obs. made at Fort Washington commencing June 1790 & ending April 1791, to which are added some Obs. on the rise & fall of the River Ohio," a paper by Judge Turner, was referred to Woodhouse, Seybert and Patterson.

The Committee on Essay [Education] No. 3, not having reported, the special business of the meeting was postponed to the next meeting; Dr. Abercrombie of that Committee



being requested to call on its members for the analysis of the Essay.

1797. *July* 21. (Wistar in the Chair; Patterson, Barton, Deveze, Caldwell, Vaughan, Abercrombie, R. P. Smith, W. Barton, Davidson, Collin, St. Mery, Peale, Seybert, Turner, James, Jon. Williams.)

Committee on Couldery's Lamp reported; report read and ordered on file with the original papers.

Barton's "New Views of the Origin of the Tribes & Nations of America;" copy from the author; thanks voted, "& delivered from the Chair."

Rush's Colour of Negroes paper ordered "to be printed in the next Volume."

*Resolved*, that no communication presented after the third Friday in Sep. "shall have a Place in the Volume now in press."

"On the Remains of certain nondescript animals, usually called Mammoth\* bones; of which one carnivorous or mixed; & the other herbivorous or Graminivorous [*sic*]," a memoir presented by Judge Turner, was read and referred to James, Wistar and Seybert.

The chemical analysis of Stone and Cement, promised by Dr. Seybert, was read and referred, with the original communication (May 19), to James, Wistar and Turner, "with the view to the publication of both at the same time."

Abercrombie reporting that Dr. Smith declined to serve on Essay No. 3, Jon. Williams was substituted.

Reports of Committee on Antiquities, ordered to be reconsidered at a Special meeting, August 4, to be "open to any other business that may occur."

Mr. V. B. Houckgeest acknowledged by letter his Certificate. Also Dr. Valentine, his second Certificate, to replace the one "lost in the Flames at Cape François.

Election of four new members: John Guillemard, St. John's College in Oxford; Wm. Bache, M.D., Philadel-

\* Corrected afterwards to Mammoth.

phia; Alex. Martin, North Carolina, member of the Senate, United States; Wm. Hamilton, of the Woodlands, near Philadelphia.

1797. Nov. 3. (Woodhouse in the Chair; J. B. Smith, S. H. Smith, Peale, Tench Coxe, Dr. Barton, Mr. Volney.)

Description and Model of a Stove, "supposed to be intended for the premium, published in May, 1796, sealed with wax, lettered A. C. with this motto prefixed to the description: *Miseris succurrere disco*, Æneid, Lib. I; were referred to Williams and Woodhouse.

Jas. Thackara's bill for printing ninety-five certificates, 15*sh.* and W. Y. Birch's bill for a quire of drawing paper, \$6.00, were ordered paid.

1797. Nov. 17. (Patterson in the Chair; Seybert, Dr. Barton, Vaughan, J. B. Smith, Abercrombie, Williams, S. H. Smith, Wistar, Wheeler, Peale, Bleakley.)

Books and a letter from Dr. Francis de Zach, of Saxe Gotha: Stellarum prec. cat. novus ex obs. ast. in Observatorio Gothaus, A. 1787, '8, '9, '90, Auc. F. de Zach; Tab. mot. Solis, Zach; Tab. spec. aberrationis et mutat. in asc. . . . 494 stell. zod. cat. &c. Zach. Thanks ordered.

Nich. King's letter referred to Patterson and Wheeler.

Committee on Turner's memoir and Seybert's communication recommend their insertion in the volume now preparing for the press.

Analysis of Essay No. 3, produced. Friday 24th, fixed on for taking up the Essays on Education.

"The Treasurer informed the Society that Mr. Bache had instituted a suit for the recovery of a sum of money which had been lent by Dr. Franklin, and that he had instructed Mr. Rawle to enter his appearance."

Whereupon

"Resolved That this Society do approve of the conduct of the Treasurer, & that he take measures for extinguishing the aforesaid debt, either by loan or otherwise, as soon as possible."

1797. *Nov.* 24. (Jno. Guillemard, Dr. Barton, S. H. Smith, Vaughan, Magaw, J. B. Smith, Wistar, Turner, Patterson, Seybert, Peale, Volney.)

Committee on Rush's memoir reported.

The same Committee now reported on Judge Turner's *Fort Washington Observations*. Both recommended for the next Volume, were to be delivered to Mr. Dobson, Printer, of the *Transactions*.

The Committee on Mr. King's letter reported, and it was ordered to go to the printer of the Volume ensuing.

"An enquiry into the comparative effects of *Opium officinarum* extracted from the *Papaver somniferum* or White Poppy of Linnæus,—and of that procured from the *Lactuca sativa* or common Lettuce [*sic*—stating a number of experiments which he [Mr. Coxe] made on both species," communicated from Dr. J. Redman Coxe, was read and referred to Seybert, Barton and Rush.

"A description of some very singular ceremonies which he [S. T. Hutchinson] was present at among the Naudowessi Indians, a nation living to the West of the Mississippi [*sic*—giving an account of their Music, exemplified by a Specimen of musical Notes," in a letter from Hutchinson, Presque Isle, May 27, 1797, to Mr. Peale, was read and referred to Turner and Patterson.

Tin and other English ores, spars and crystals, were presented by Judge Turner for the Cabinet. Thanks ordered.

"This evening . . . . the merits of the several communications . . . . on . . . . Education, should be brought to issue,—certain reasons induce the Society to defer this business a little longer."

"*Resolved*, That, On the 3<sup>d</sup> Friday, in Dec<sup>r</sup> the Society will determine their judgment . . . . due Notice to be given one or more of the Public Papers & in printed hand bills, directed to the several members in this city, of their being summoned . . . . punctual attendance."

1797. Dec. 1. (Collin, 11 others.)

Patterson and Vaughan appointed a Committee to continue the insurance on the Building and Library in the Insurance office North America for one year, or in any other office for one or more years.

"Modestus" withdraws, by letter, his Prize essay on Peach trees. The sealed packet was burned unopened.

"A trigonometrical Survey of part of England" presented (by letter, signed Ed. Williams), by the Marquis of Cornwallis. Vaughan to answer.

Turner and Patterson reported that S. F. Hutchisson's [*sic*] paper on Indian Music was "an imposition & unworthy of further notice," and gave, by request, their reasons, which were satisfactory.

"A botanical mode of discriminating between esculent & noxious vegetables" in a letter from Ben. Shultz; referred to Barton and Seybert.

Meteorological Journals by Phineas Pemberton, "long lying among the Society's papers, were called up," and referred to Judge Turner.

Resolution of July 21, excluding later papers from the Vol. of Transactions rescinded.

Report on the Laws again read, Patterson added to the Committee, and the report recommitted.

1797. Dec. 15. (Judge McKean; Davidson, Seybert, Peale, Turner, Patterson, Vaughan, Wistar and S. H. Smith who "after staying a few minutes retired."

Prize communication on an improvement in Steam Pumps signed "Improvement" read and referred to Peale and Williams.

Prize committee on Preserving Peach trees, signed "Lime," read and referred to Peale and Williams,

Patterson reported £34 .. 8 .. 9½, belonging to the Society exclusively; £55 .. 17, to the Magellanic Fund; and 33

Ins. Co. shares, ditto ; in the Treasurer's hands December 31, 1796.

Insurance Committee had insured in the North America office \$4000 on building at 30 per cent \$12; and \$1200 on library \$3.36 = \$15.36.

Patterson and Smith to audit Treasurer's accounts.

Analyses read of Education Prize essays. Vote taken on the question "Is this the best System of liberal Education and literary Instruction adapted to the Genius of the Government and best calculated to promote the genuine welfare of the U. S.?"

"Whereupon it appeared to the Society that two of these Essays: 1. An Essay with this motto, 'In meti descendat Judicis Aures.' [*sic*] Hor.—2. An Essay with this motto 'I call a complete & generous Education that which fits a man to perform justly, skilfully & magnanimously all the offices both private and public of Peace & War.'—(Milton)—possessed a superior degree of merit & were worthy of publication. The Premium was in consequence adjudged to be equally divided between the authors of these two Essays."

"The President pro tem. then opened the Sealed letters . . . Rev<sup>d</sup> Sam.<sup>l</sup> Knox of Bladensburg, Md., was the author of the first, and Sam. H. Smith of Phila. author of the Second."

Turner, Patterson and Williams, to draw up an introduction to these Essays and superintend the printing.

The Piece with motto "Desinet ac toto . . . Virgil Ec. IV," was ordered to be returned to the care of Alex. Moore, Tavern-keeper, at the corner of Chestnut and Fourth streets.

1798. Jan'y 5. (9 present.)

#### ANNUAL ELECTION.

Collin, Vaughan, Williams, Judges ; Patterson, Davidson, Secretaries.

*President*—Hon. Thomas Jefferson.

*Vice-Presidents*—Collin, Rush, Wistar.